

Warhol's portrait of Dutch queen sold . . . pg 2

A Nacional Project for Oral History pg 4

December is AIDS awareness month



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Free HIV tests today and tomorrow

ORANJESTAD -- Laboratorio Familiar together with the Aruba Laboratory Department is offering free HIV tests today and tomorrow. The test will determine if a person is infected with the HIV virus, which can develop into AIDS.

According to Mrs. Milagros Posner of the Women's Club of Aruba, they were approached by different young adults in the community, even members of the Womens Club and eventually Mr. Jairo Boekhoud, to give the community an opportunity to do the HIV test. It is important for Aruba to know how many persons are infected with the HIV virus, in order to tackle the problem and avoid



that more people get infected.

Dr. Wilmer Salazar of the Department of Contagious Diseases urges the community in general to make good use of this opportunity. It is important for a person to know if he is HIV positive to avoid spread-

ing the disease and also to get their medication in order to live a relatively good life. In case a subject is HIV positive, Dr Salazar will take contact with him for a post testing counseling.

According to Mrs. Aurelia Croes of the Laboratorio Familiar, the lab was approached by Jairo Boekhoudt to do the FREE HIV tests campaign, which they thought was a fantastic idea. They kindly ask the community, especially those who lead an active sexual life, had a tattoo done or use needles, to do the test. A special request goes to the youth to make good use of this opportunity.

The tests will be done at the testing station at Santa Cruz from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. and in the afternoon at the Laboratorio Familiar office in de La Sallestraat from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The only requirement: Everyone must bring a valid identification, such as passport, diving license or ID.

Director of the Department of Contagious Diseases, Mrs. Sharline Koolman informs that the laboratory Department is offering tests only at the Instituto Medico San Nicolas (IMSAN) – the San Nicolas Medical Center - during normal laboratory hours. Mrs. Koolman says that the idea behind their support of the campaign is to introduce an annual HIV testing campaign. There is an international HIV campaign called "Know your status Day."

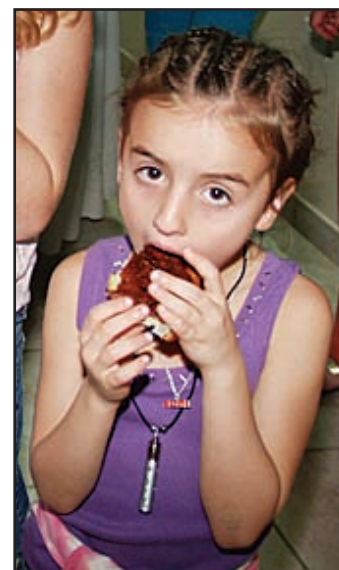
All concerned entities invite the community in general to do the test today and tomorrow. The test is completely FREE!

Temple Beth Israel will light the first Chanukah candle tonight



The Hebrew Festival of Lights begins today at sundown, and Rabbi Dr. Mario Gurevich will lead the local Jewish community in a celebration with services and lighting of the first candle tonight at 7:00 p.m. Island Visitors are welcome to come celebrate with the congregation and share some homemade potato latkes. For the eight successive days of Chanukah there will be a ritual lighting each night at 7:00 p.m. except Friday, December 3, when the lighting will take place at 5:45 p.m., prior to Shabbat Services.

Chanukah is a holiday that celebrates religious freedom and national independence. The story dates back more than 2,000 year ago, to the land of Judea, where Jews were ruled by Greek kings. One particularly brutal king was Antiochus, who forced



the people to turn their backs on their faith and worship the Greek gods instead. In the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, Antiochus erected an idol of the Greek god Zeus and placed it on the holiest altar.

Continued on page 5

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Heavy snow hits airports and roads across Europe

LONDON, England (AFP) - Snow and freezing temperatures severely disrupted airports in Germany and Britain and caused chaos and deaths on roads across Europe yesterday.

More than 200 flights were cancelled at Frankfurt airport in Germany, the continent's third busiest, while southern German states were blanketed by snow.

Large parts of Poland were covered in thick snow, causing hundreds of accidents on the roads and at least four people were killed on snowbound roads in the Czech Republic.

It was so cold in France that electricity network RTE warned of cuts in the supply as the country looked set to top record demand levels while 20 percent of high-speed train services to the hard hit south-east were cancelled.

Switzerland suffered its

coldest November night for 45 years as temperatures plunged below minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit), according to national weather service Meteosuisse.

Even Spain and Portugal were shivering after snow fell in the northern half of the Iberian peninsula.

Britain has been taken by surprise by its earliest widespread snowfall since 1993, forcing hundreds of schools in Scotland and rural parts of England to close and causing treacherous conditions on roads and at smaller airports.

Scotland, on St Andrew's Day, its national day, recorded the coldest temperature in Britain overnight Monday with the mercury plunging to minus 15 degrees Celsius (five de-

grees Fahrenheit).

In Germany, heavy snowfall blanketed the southern states of Bavaria, Baden-Wuerttemberg and Saxony and even colder weather is forecast across the country later this week.

At Frankfurt airport, even when the runways were cleared of snow, aircraft had to be de-iced, causing further delays.

The Czech Republic experienced up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) of fresh snow in some cities, causing power cuts and travel disruption. Four people were killed and 80 were injured on the country's roads.

The Polish capital Warsaw was snarled up by huge traffic jams after 30 centimetres of snow fell since Monday.

20 bodies now unearthed near Mexico-US border

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AFP) - Police unearthed two more bodies from hidden graves near Mexico's brutal border city of Ciudad Juarez, bringing the total to 20 found in two days, local justice officials said yesterday.

The grisly discoveries came amid a wave of suspected drug-related violence which has left more than 28,000 dead across Mexico since 2006, according to official figures.

The victims had been killed between eight and 12 months

ago, and included one woman, said the Chihuahua state attorney general's office in a statement.

The bodies, which had bound feet and hands and bore bullet wounds, were dumped in at least 11 graves discovered near a farm on the US border.

They were recovered following confessions from five suspects arrested on Saturday in possession of 175 kilograms (385 pounds) of marijuana, officials said.

Warhol's portrait of Dutch queen sold for 400,000 euros



A visitor looks through a Christie's catalogue featuring the auction of the portrait of Queen Beatrix by Andy Warhol in Amsterdam.

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - An Andy Warhol portrait of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands fetched 400,000 euros yesterday when it went under the hammer in Amsterdam, the auctioneers Christie's said.

"The picture was sold for 409,000 euros (around 530,000 dollars) to bidders from the Triton foundation," spokesman Maarten van Gijn told AFP, referring to a Dutch body which organises exhibitions.

The 1985 portrait was part of a series by the late pop artist known as the "Reigning Queens" which also includes Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and Queen Ntombi Twala Of Swaziland.

The portrait will go on display at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, the spokesman said.

French expert: Haiti cholera outbreak 'imported'

PARIS, France (AFP) - The strain of cholera that triggered an epidemic that has claimed more than 1,750 lives in Haiti must have been brought in from abroad, a leading French epidemiologist said yesterday.

Many in Haiti believe the deadly outbreak was caused by poor sanitation at a camp for United Nations peacekeeping troops from Nepal, a country where the disease is endemic. The UN force has said there is no proof of this.

Cholera specialist Professor Renaud Piarroux spoke to AFP on his return from Haiti, where he conducted a study for the

Haitian government. He warned that the epidemic could yet cause sickness in 200,000 people.

"It started in the center of the country, not by the sea, nor in the refugee camps. The epidemic can't be of local origin. That's to say, it was imported," he told AFP, without directly fingering the Nepalese camp.

Meanwhile, Haiti's ruling party acknowledged possible defeat yesterday in pivotal general elections, raising hopes of a peaceful power transfer in the quake-hit and cholera-gripped nation.

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Santa Rosa informs that, after a complete survey on the different dams on Aruba, the situation is under control All parents are requested to keep their children away from the dams and water reservoirs

ORANJESTAD – Aruba got a lot of rain during these last months, with the consequence that all the dams and water reservoirs are filled to the maximum. This brings some concerns among the community. As part of the

daily task of Santa Rosa, the Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries Department, under management of Mr. Danje, is to regularly control those dams and water reservoirs. This is to ensure the community that everything is under control; there is no need to worry about flooding.

It is important to regularly control the water reservoirs that are fed by water coming from among others, Kas Ariba, St. Cruz I and II, Palo di Boonchi, Piedra Plat, Rooi Afo, Noord, Tanki Flip and Modanza.

A second very important aspect which must be taken into account is the control of the flow of water and the physical structure of the water reservoirs. The water must flow without obstacles and the reservoir structure must be solid.

During a recent control after heavy rains, the department came to the conclusion that fortunately the situation of the different dams and water reservoirs represent no danger to the community. The Santa Rosa experts determined that at the moment, the water is flow is without obstacles and can disgorge into the sea, its final destination.

According to Santa Rosa the water reservoirs that suffered damage during the heavy rains of 2004 were all fixed.

"The water is flowing and there is no danger of flooding and no need to panic," says Mr. Danje.

But Santa Rosa kindly ask all parents to please take good notice that the water reservoirs are full which can



The Dam at Rooi Afo

be dangerous for children playing next the reservoirs. To avoid any incidents please do not let children play around any water reservoirs.


Santa Rosa kindly asks

anyone who sees any irregularity in the water flow to and from the water reservoirs to please notify them immediately at tel. 585-8102.




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Sassy is on the look-out for friends and family

We would like to introduce Sassy to you, one of the donkeys that are cared for by the Aruban Donkey Foundation. Not a spring chicken anymore, she is the great grandmother of donkey Sky. Sassy has a large family at the sanctuary and she recently bore twins. The volunteers did not know that Sassy was pregnant and even less that two donkey babies would be born. Unfortunately one of the two babies died at birth. The other one was called Surprise, but that donkey also died; after just eight days of living. Sassy received extra care during that period, but one would not notice that she is grieving for the loss of her twins. Actually, that is quite normal in the animal world. Sassy is sometimes likened to an Apaloosa horse, as she has a spotted coat.

Sassy has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way she can be recognized. The donkeys at the sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try to cover the cost through organizing all kinds of activities and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors who adopt a donkey now and

then, who donate money or who buy something in the store. They help keep the sanctuary afloat that way.

The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt Sassy. Sassy will stay



there, of course; the only thing that is needed is AWG. 30,- per month pays for her keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website.

Please call the donkey foundation at 595-2933 and become Sassy's new family; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website www.arubadonkey.org or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025.

A Nacional Project for Oral History: the Expedition Rescate



Minister of Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar proudly announced the formation of an important cultural project to be coordinated by the Aruba Department of Culture. The University of Aruba and the Aruba Teachers' College, IPA, are both collaborating on this Oral History project as it is named. According to Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar there is an urgency to preserve our oral history. For this reason she opted to approve the financing of a "Train the Trainer" course to be held December 6th. Said course will be taught by two professionals from Curaçao, namely, Mrs. Jeanne Henriquez of the *Museo Tula*, and Mrs. Crisen Schorea of the *Kas di Kultura Korsow* (Curaçao House of Culture).

'Expedition Rescate' (Rescue Expedition) as it is dubbed, is a project which forms an integral part of the 2010-2011 management and action plan of the Aruba Department of Culture (DCA). Institutions such as the University of Aruba and the IPA concur on the importance that the results of this kind of investigation will have especially on education.

One of the objectives of these institutions is to make the community aware of the important role of investigation and documentation. Investigation concerning the cultural and natural heritage of our people is extremely significant.

The 'Expedition Rescate' project will serve as a stimulus to our people to conserve, protect and promote our cultural and natural heritage. To achieve this, they are convinced the information must be communicated on a national level and in different formats.

An important part of the process will be to collect information from the elderly through interviews as they recall from memory their experiences and historical data. The information collected will not just be stored but will also be made available to the general public and to our schools.

A small group of public service personnel and volunteers of several foundations who work in the field of culture will attend the 'Train the Trainer' course prepared and offered by the *Curaçao Kas di Kultura* and the *Curaçao Museo Tula*. Subsequently, the Aruba partners will offer the course to others interested in learning how to do investigation about our Oral History.

On Tuesday, November

30th the 'Expedition Rescate' was formally presented to the general public and to all GO's and NGO's. One of the objectives of the information evening is to consult with other cultural groups on what other topics of interest may need urgent attention or priority.

Speakers were:

Lydia Emerencia, head of the Center of Investigation and Development of the University of Aruba. She spoke on "The Importance of Investigation on Aruba"

Ruby Eckmeyer, Coordinator for the Investigation of Art & Culture at the University of Aruba. Her topic, "The Area of Investigation of Art & Culture"

Shaliny Tromp-Lee, head of the department of Investigation & Documentation at the Aruba Department of Culture. Her topic was, "The Expedition Rescate Project."

On behalf of the University of Aruba and the IPA, you are cordially invited to Be part of the rescue process of our cultural and natural heritage.

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Temple Beth Israel will light the first Chanukah candle tonight

Continued from page 1



Tradition of lighting the candles

Antiochus' religious oppression evoked the indignation of all the Jewish people, and most especially of Judah Maccabee, who was living in the foothills surrounding Jerusalem. Judah Maccabee banned together with his

brothers to form a resistance militia that fought this oppression; they came to be called The Maccabees.

After three years of brutal battles, the Maccabees, against all odds, drove the Greco-Syrians out of Judea.

They reclaimed their Holy Temple in Jerusalem, which had been defiled with the statues of Greek gods. On the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, 164 BCE, the Maccabees finished cleaning out the Temple and wanted to rededicate this holy structure by relighting the Temple's menorah.

Tradition teaches that there was only enough pure oil to burn for one night, but a miracle occurred and the Menorah burned for eight nights, at which point, more oil had been pressed and purified.

Chanukah is always a festive occasion with games and traditional treats for the children, as they learn about their history and come to appreciate their heritage. For more information about activities at Temple Beth Israel and overseas membership, visit their website <http://bethisrael-aruba.blogspot.com/>.

by Rosalie Klein



The miracle of the maccabees



A fun holiday for all the children

Sci-Tech

Indian tech firms link with China to take on Western brands

NEW DELHI (AFP) – Indian technology companies are growing in confidence. New brands are launching thick and fast, determined to take on established Western names with help from cheap Chinese factories.

Many of them have made significant inroads into the rocketing mobile phone market in India, and others already have their eye on bigger prizes in the international tablet computer and PC industry.

The boss of Bangalore-based Notion Ink, Rohan Shrivastava, is a man in a hurry. The fast-talking 25-year-old co-founded the group three years ago and will start taking orders for his "Adam" tablet computer within weeks.

Shipping of the sleek iPad wannabee to the United States and Europe could begin at the end of the year, with domestic sales starting soon after.

"What we want to do is set a standard in the international market with the Adam," Shrivastava, a graduate of one of India's prestigious technical universities, told AFP.

"There's going to be exponential growth for us," he said, adding that an updated version of the device was already in development.

Elsewhere, electronics group Olive and online Indian shopping site Infibeam – which models itself on US-based Amazon, even down to its very similar logo – have both launched their own tablet computers.

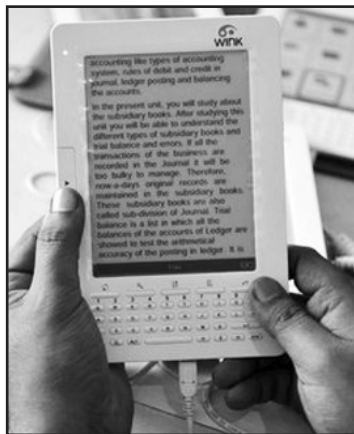
Amazon has other admirers in India and the concept of its top-selling e-reader Kindle, designed specifically for reading books and magazines, has also been copied by another ambitious Bangalore-based company, EC Media.

In August, it launched Wink, which is about 40 dollars cheaper than the Kindle in India, though it has received mixed reviews.

EC Media has signed up deals with local publishers to supply books in English as well as 15 vernacular languages – a key part of their sales strategy.

"We thought that even though the market is not there yet, if you are in the market then it has good scope for growth," Pradeep Palazhi, chief operating officer, told AFP at a launch event in New Delhi.

"Wink is designed for the Indian reader. The Kindle is available here, but it's still dependent on the US store," he



A man works on his Kindle-style tablet called Wink at the EC Media International Private Limited office

said.

In the mobile phone sector, competition is fierce and the impact of Indian companies could presage developments in other parts of the electronics market, where demand is being driven by India's rapidly expanding economy.

Rising incomes, access to credit, and the falling costs of technology mean sales of electronic goods are booming across the country.

In the mobile sector, Indian brands Micromax, Lava, Spice, Karbonn and Zen have mushroomed over the last 12 months, grabbing share from Nokia through aggressive marketing and products adapted for the local market.

In a study published in September, research firm IDC estimated domestic handset makers had grabbed a market share of 33 percent from just 0.9 percent two years ago.

Their road to success, like everyone else's in the electronics sector, reaches back into China where large-scale, hi-tech and cheap contract manufacturers have been tapped as suppliers.

Though relations between the two Asian superpowers are prickly at a diplomatic level, collaboration between India's skilled software engineers and device designers and China's factories is developing at pace.

"There are vendors in China that can do just about anything you want," said Amit Aggarwal, respected Indian technology writer and chief of the Digital Inspiration blog.

"You give them the price they are asking for and you get a product ready to go to stores."

"If you have an idea, getting it executed is quite easy now, so that's helping a lot of vendors," he added.

Shrivastava from Notion Ink

said getting his devices manufactured in India made no sense because production capacity is small, meaning prices are high, and factories lack the latest hi-tech equipment.

"China is the one that has invested in nano technology. They have the scale," he told AFP.

He says he would like to see his devices being assembled in India – mobile phone firms such as Micromax and Nokia already have such facilities – but manufacturing will not be a possibility for the "next five to ten years".

"It takes a lot for the investment in the infrastructure in electronics," he said.

Consultancy Frost & Sullivan recently carried out a study of the Indian electronics market and concluded that the country had good prospects for manufacturing in several product areas.

Mobile handsets and mobile phone base stations have potential, as well as computer desktops and laptops, memory products and screens for televisions and computer monitors, Frost said.

Ameya Dalvi, editor of consumer electronics website www.techtree.com, says many in the industry expect a tablet PC boom after the success of the Apple iPad, which could present Indian companies with an opportunity.

As Hurricane season ends, storm studies just beginning

The Atlantic hurricane season officially ended yesterday (Nov. 30), but where hurricane season ends, years of work are just beginning for NASA researchers who spent the 2010 season flying a fleet of planes into storms.

The space agency's Genesis and Rapid Intensification Processes mission, or GRIP experiment, gathered reams of data from multiple hurricanes and tropical storms during the late summer through September.

Using myriad instruments crammed aboard three aircraft, researchers were able to gather unprecedented observations of storms' life cycles, gathering data on vital signs such as precipitation, lightning, wind speed, and rotation as storms initially formed, intensified and eventually blew themselves out.

Scientists hope the data will help improve their understanding of the still-mysterious processes that govern



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Internet access to return to flights, says Lufthansa



FRANKFURT (AFP) – The leading German airline, Lufthansa, said Tuesday that it will offer Internet access on nearly its entire network by the end of next year, beginning with some flights to North America.

From Wednesday, "Luft-

hansa will be the first airline to offer its customers broadband Internet access on inter-continental routes," a statement said.

The German carrier first offered the service in January 2003 but withdrew it three years later for reasons of cost.

The new system, dubbed "FlyNet" and developed by Panasonic of Japan with Deutsche Telekom, will provide unlimited access to passengers with a laptop or smartphone for 10.95 euros (14.21 dollars) or 3,500 frequent flier miles per hour.

A 24-hour connection will be available for 19.95 euros or 7,000 miles.

The service will be free however on FlyNet-equipped aircraft until January 31, 2011 the airline said.

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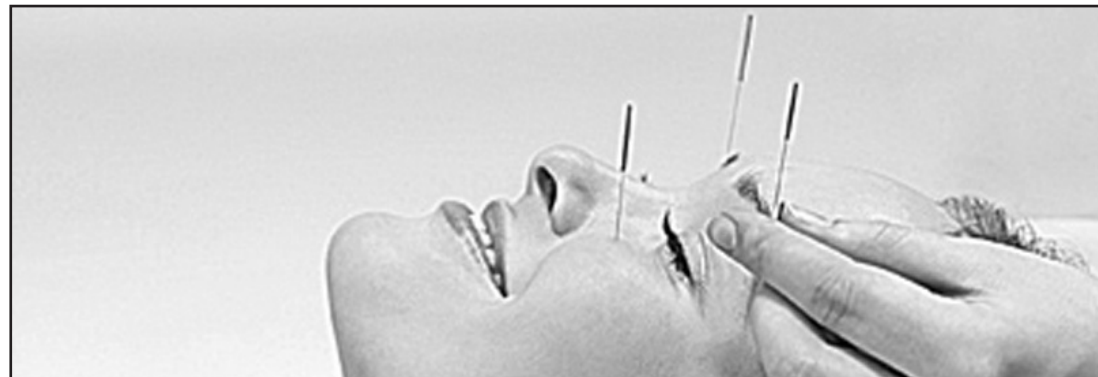
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Health & Living

Acupuncture really does help relieve pain: study



Acupuncture alters the way that the brain perceives and processes pain, a finding that suggests the traditional Chinese treatment can effectively relieve pain, according to a new study.

German researchers used functional MRI scans to measure brain activity in 18 people who received painful electrical currents from a device fitted to their left ankle. The researchers then placed acupuncture needles on the participants' right side -- including between the toes, below the knee and near the thumb -- and again inflicted pain in the left ankle.

Without acupuncture, there was major activation of pain-processing areas of the

brain. Activation in these areas was significantly reduced when the volunteers received acupuncture.

The researchers also found that acupuncture reduced activation in areas of the brain that control expectations of pain.

The study was to be presented Tuesday at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America, in Chicago.

"Acupuncture is supposed to act through at least two mechanisms, nonspecific expectancy-based effects and specific modulation of the incoming pain signal," lead author Dr. Nina Theysohn of University Hospital in Essen, Germany, said in a news release from the society. "Our

findings support that both these nonspecific and specific mechanisms exist, suggesting that acupuncture can help relieve pain."

Doctors warn of inconsistencies in Vitamin D studies

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Vitamin D and calcium have been hailed as a possible antidote for cancer, heart disease and more, but a panel of US and Canadian doctors said Tuesday that the duo's only sure benefit is bone health.

After reviewing about 1,000 studies on the supposed links between low vitamin D levels and higher risk of serious diseases, the panel concluded that they showed inconsistent results, sometimes due to shoddy research methods.

The experts also issued new guidelines -- the first since 1997 -- for North Americans, saying people should take between 700 and 1,300 milligrams of calcium and anywhere from 600 to 800 international units of vitamin D each day.

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Probiotics may ease some children's illnesses: AAP

Probiotics may offer limited benefits for certain illnesses in children, according to an American Academy of Pediatrics report published Monday in the journal Pediatrics.

The group said evidence suggests that taking probiotics ("good" bacteria) early during diarrhea from a viral infection may shorten the length of the illness in other-

wise healthy children.

In addition, probiotics also may prevent diarrhea caused by antibiotics.

But the AAP said more evidence is required before it can recommend probiotics for constipation, irritable bowel syndrome or Crohn's disease in children, or probiotics in pregnant women or infants to prevent eczema or asthma.

TIP: Avoid Medical Mistakes



Sometimes, there's nothing you can do to avoid a medical error.

But the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says that's not always the case. Here are steps you can take to reduce your risk of a medical error at the doctor's office

or hospital:

- * Ask plenty of questions, especially about tests, medications or other treatments you receive.
- * Confirm that each health care worker you see knows your medical history, including any allergies and medications you take.
- * Bring along a friend or family member to help ensure that your care is safe and effective.
- * Check your prescriptions at the pharmacy to be sure they're correct.
- * Request that any staff member administering your medications looks at your hospital ID bracelet each time.
- * Ask staff to wash their hands before they examine or touch you.

REMEMBER

to

Buckle up

Most people "probably don't have vitamin D deficiency, that is the first message," said Glenville Jones, a Canadian doctor who was on the 14-member committee for the US-based Institute of Medicine.

"We think there has been an exaggeration of the public's interest in vitamin D deficiency. (People) should be reassured that vitamin D deficiency is quite rare in North Americans at this point in time."

Just by eating a balanced diet and possibly taking a vitamin supplement in the winter, because sun exposure boosts vitamin D levels, most North Americans would have no difficulty meeting the recommended allotment, he said.

The panel's establishment of new guidelines offer a more solid recommended daily dose than the 1997 approach of suggesting adequate intake (AI) amounts.

The previous recommendations set the amount of calcium at between 210 and 270 milligrams per day for babies, 500 to 1,300 for children aged one to 18, 1,000 per day for adults aged 19-50 and 1,200 for those 50 and older.

For vitamin D, the old recommendations were 200 international units for those under age 50, 400 IU for people 51-70 years old and 600 IU for those over 71.

Jones declined to characterize the new guidelines as higher than before, saying it would be like "comparing apples to pears."

Humans need calcium to help clot blood and for proper functioning of muscles and

nerves, and vitamin D is necessary for the body to absorb calcium. Inadequate calcium has been shown to lead to bone fractures and osteoporosis.

The experts noted that some populations are likely to need more Vitamin D than other groups -- including breastfed babies, people with dark skin and those living in northern latitudes where daylight exposure is limited.

"There are claims about vitamin D in heart disease, in cancer, autoimmune diseases -- you name it, there are claims out there that are not based upon a lot of studies," said Jones.

"Our dilemma is that there are mixed reports that are not all consistent," said Jones, who is a professor of biochemistry at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario.

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Ladies Night at Cool Casino delivers great fun



Cool Casino hosted its weekly Ladies Night on Wednesday with an added element of excitement. The local Christmas Gift Show, presented by channel 15, ATV, filmed a live hour at the casino filled with music and holiday cheer.

Local TV hosts Ruben Garcia and Cherry Muller teamed up with Deyanira Zuniga, Marketing Supervisor and Sandro Laclé, Casino Manager to produce an evening packed with surprises from delicious local

snacks to festive cake, cocktails and live music.

Grupo Di Betico, a most popular local band entertained party-goers with their traditional holiday music, which inspired guests to kick up their heels and let loose, dancing and romancing right in the middle of the gaming floor.

Several guests made an appearance during the live TV broadcast of the Christmas Gift Show, introducing the casino's \$10 promotional slot cash, the

casino's weekly Blackjack tournament and Sunday's free slot tournament.

Lovely Deyanira Zuniga also reported that Cool Casino just struck a deal with Aruba Wine and Dine, valid at nine fine restaurants, to award patrons \$10 promotional slot cash for every \$75 spent on lunch or dinner, as a terrific added-value.

Pictured here Ladies Night at Cool Casino, where everyone is welcome!

Pilgrims at La Cabana, celebrating Thanksgiving

There were no Indians present at La Cabana's Thanksgiving feast but the Pilgrims were there, dressed in true 17th century fashion, inspired by their Dutch and British roots.

The custom of an annually celebrated thanksgiving, held after the harvest, started in 1621 and continued through the years in the Americas. During the American Revolution in the late 1770s, a day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress, and in 1817 New York State was first to adopt Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom, with many other states to follow.

The fourth Thursday each November just became an official holiday at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club this week, as talented members of



the accounting department sewed all costumes from scraps and left-overs creating an amazing wardrobe of black clothes with white lace collars and buckles on the men's hats and shoes, while the ladies par-

aded smocks, petticoats, coifs, stockings and aprons!

The kitchen served turkey with all the trimmings for a delicious Thanksgiving day, part of the resort's Cafeteria Theme day.

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Foie gras burger blurs fast food and fine dining

PARIS, France — A French fast food chain said this week it intends to offer foie gras "burgers" at bargain prices as a treat for customers ahead of Christmas.

Quick burger said its "Supreme Foie Gras" will consist of the normally expensive duck foie gras, beef, relish and lettuce and go on sale for only 5 euros (\$6.57) at more than 350 outlets across France from December 17th to 19th.

"We want to give our clients great taste at cheap prices and give them the possibility to party a little ahead of time," Quick's Marketing Director Laurent Niewolinski, said.

Foie gras, a luxury dish in



Goose Foie Gras

French cuisine, is made from the liver of a duck or goose which has been force-fed corn mash, a practice denounced by animal protection groups who say the animals live in constant stress because of it.

Niewolinski brushed off potential criticism, saying that foie gras was a traditional part of French celebrations.

Breakfast
 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<p>EGG DISHES *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese *Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.</p> <p>*PASTECHEI HORNA *CRÊPES *SWEET CRÊPES *BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg</p>	<p>LOCAL BREAKFAST *Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette *KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH) *CONCH *FISH EGG *SHRIMPS *FISH FILLET *FISH CAKE *CHICKEN SOUP</p> <p>*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT *HOT BEVERAGES *COLD BEVERAGES</p>
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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

Norwegian couple return to Paradise for their wedding vows



Last November 19th, the Norwegian couple Ingrid Stangeland and Kyrre Kjær's got married on Aruba. Here is the story as told by the proud father of

the bride

So we ended up seeing my daughter married in Aruba! Such is the story so far in a long tale of strong bonds to Aruba – dushi terra!

I came to Aruba in 1954 when my father as a young engineer took up work at the Lago Oil & Transport Company, a refinery branch of ESSO. We stayed nearly 5 ½ years in Aruba before returning to Norway, country where my parents came from. Having spent this many – and important years of my life in Aruba - I have always retained a very deep affection for the island and not least for its people and culture.

When I returned to Aruba after 33 years, I brought my wife and 3 children. We all immediately fell in love with the island. Although I had read a lot about how the island had changed over the years, and especially Seroe Colorado, it was still a wonderful place with lovely people. This resulted in our returning to the island 5 times. Every time we stayed at the VistaMar, and enjoyed the different aspects of the whole island. My kids call it "Paradise." – just like it had been to me over those years when I could only dream back to my childhood days.

My daughter, Ingrid, has been engaged for about 6 years. Her fiancée never wanted a big wedding. In June Ingrid phoned me and asked; "Do you think we could get married in Aruba?" I promised to check it out – and yes, via Clyde Harms we got in touch with Lissy Lampe, and we made it! Both the civil wedding in Oranjestad and the church wedding in Seroe Colorado church were planned here for November 19th. I arrived



one week early to set the final details in our plans and the remaining 9 attending the wedding were all here on November 13th. We only missed one of Ingrid's two brothers who just could not take time off from work in Abu Dhabi.

Our big day on Friday was grand. The weather was not at its best Aruban, but Lissy told us that rain on

your wedding day means good luck! The ceremonies in the Civil house and in the church were splendid. Our reception took place at the Old Man and the Sea restaurant in Savaneta – a dream of a place – paradise and wonderful service and food. It was a truly memorable day in our beloved Aruba.

Geir Stangeland



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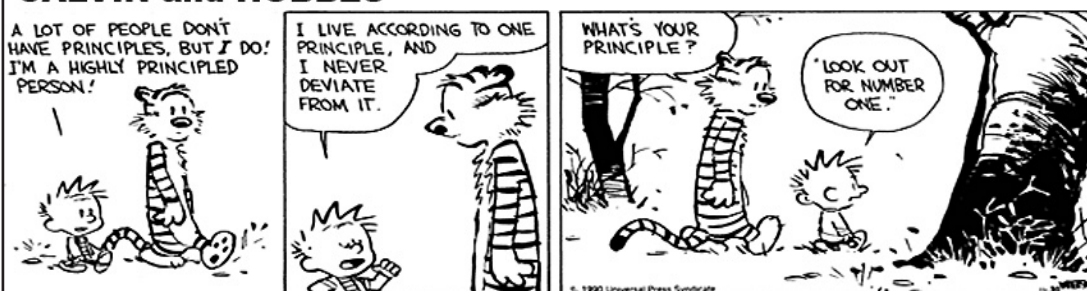
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Assam people
5. School groups: abbr.
9. Speed word
13. As much as a seated person can hold
19. Out of one's mind
21. Govt. org.: abbr.
22. Threatening words
23. Where A.A. met his sweetheart?
25. Hee-hawed
26. Constantine's birthplace
27. Two
28. Brings up
29. Bedouin's stopping place
30. Pollen holders
32. Wine
33. Urge
34. Perfect
35. Edward Everett's revoltin' development?
40. Some MDs: abbr.
43. County in Neb.
44. Bouncer
45. Mouthward
46. Actor Gulager
47. Be patient
49. Be quick
52. Audibly active
53. Pt. or lb.: abbr.
56. Oscar and Joyce Carol's youthful capers?
58. Grip
59. Reduces to secular status
61. Dolt
62. Respiratory malady
63. Attains fame
64. "Oliver Twist" name
65. Flatfish
67. Dwarf count
68. Finch
69. Profundity
70. Guys
71. Thomas raises a false alarm?
73. Hwy.: abbr.
74. Pit.
75. Touch tenderly
77. Residents: suffix
78. Fish paddle
79. Swiss river
80. Vast expanse
81. Titles of respect
86. Small boy
87. What Sir Richard saw in Pittsburgh?
92. Dvorak
93. A.B.A. member: abbr.
95. out (erratic)
96. Steak
98. Words in 67 Across's refrain
100. Capar
101. Romanian city
102. Freed from taboo, in Hawaii
103. Pastry place

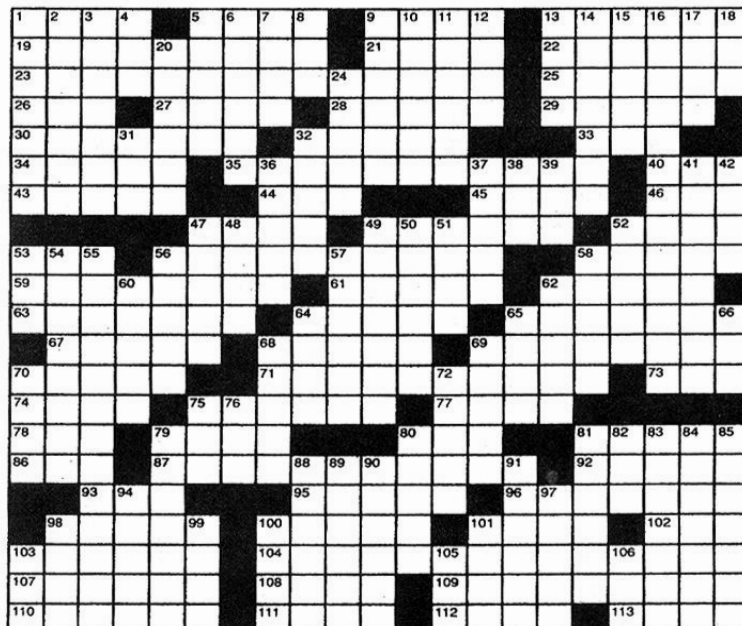
DOWN

104. Thomas is an irritant?
107. Research paper
108. Golliwogg
109. Kind of writer
110. Messy
111. Elk
112. Heirs
113. Scent
1. Shelley poem
2. Wyman's Johnny
3. Elderly person
4. Edge
5. Hairy
6. Chic
7. Actor Mischa
8. Draft letters
9. Actress Rita
10. "against troubles"
11. Magna
12. Overacting actors
13. Gray wolf
14. Decked out
15. "porridge hot"
16. Author from outer space?
17. Employs
18. Guided
20. In a mature way
24. Attempted
31. Gen. Arnold

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32. Dish
36. Sour substances
37. False
38. Lode find
39. Beach acquisition
41. Least sylph-like
42. Cesspool
47. Become shrunken
48. Pub pints
49. Taxi drivers
50. Greek tourist mecca
51. Study groups: abbr.
52. Cathartic material
53. Fla. neighbor: abbr.
54. Kangaroos' pouches
55. Conrad is tucked out?
56. Spouses
57. Husband of Isis
58. Mourning band
60. Certain feline
62. Musical signs
64. Dried up
65. Soccer great
66. Compass pt.: abbr.
68. Rock debris
69. Relating to a dowry
70. Foolish
72. Use skillfully
75. Tabby
76. Exist
79. Oregon seaport
80. Because
81. A Hemingway
82. Pismire
83. Over with
84. Rabat's land
85. Gym shoe
88. Certain printed matter measure
89. Whole
90. Portlander
91. Island, NY
94. Things here
97. Dead embers
98. Nobel chemist Otto
99. Method: abbr.
100. Footless
101. Japanese box
103. Heat measure: abbr.
105. No ____, ands, or buts
106. Ship of old



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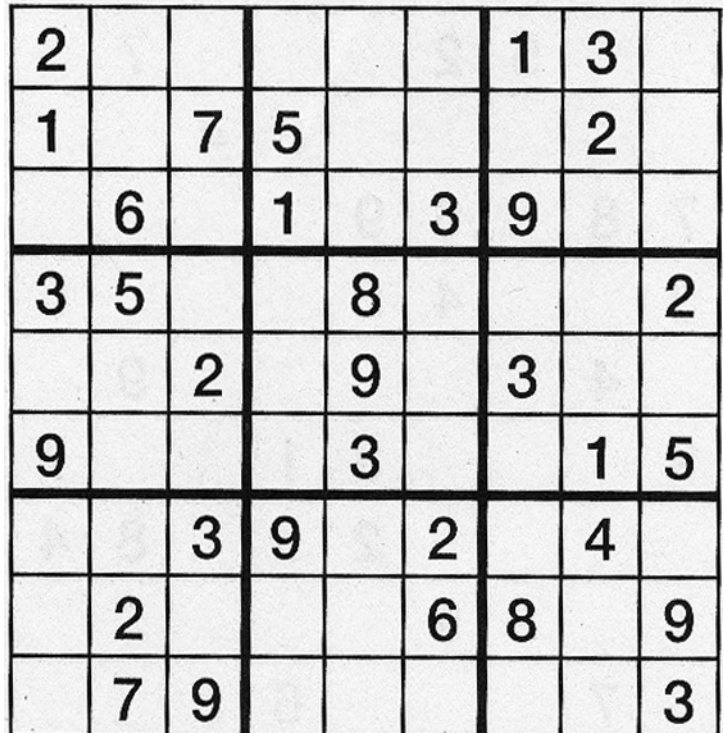
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	9	2	7	1	8	6	2	9
6	2	8	9	5	3	1	2	7
1	7	9	2	2	6	3	8	9
9	1	9	2	3	2	8	7	6
7	8	3	9	6	9	2	1	2
2	6	2	1	8	7	9	5	3
2	9	6	3	2	1	7	9	8
8	2	7	6	9	5	2	3	1
9	3	1	8	7	2	9	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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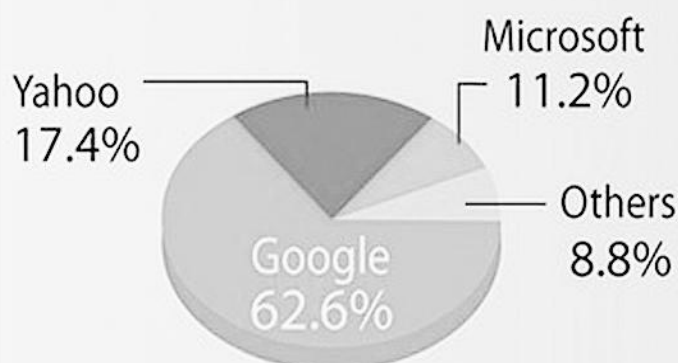


A General Motors Chevrolet Volt goes through assembly after GM celebrated the official launch of the Chevrolet Volt hybrid electric vehicle at GM's Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly in Detroit, Michigan. General Motors yesterday launched its battery-powered Volt and a major hiring program to ramp up production of green vehicles. (AFP PHOTO)

Web search giants

Comparing internet search engines

► Market share



Graphics comparing search engine market share of Yahoo!, Google and Microsoft. The European Union has launched a full-frontal attack on Internet king Google, formally opening an antitrust probe after rivals accused the Silicon Valley giant of rigging the online search market. (AFP PHOTO)



Indian construction workers work on a high-rise in Rajarhat New Town on the outskirts of Kolkata earlier this month. India's economy grew a forecast-beating 8.9 percent year-on-year in the July-September quarter, data shows, underscoring the country's brisk recovery from the global financial crisis. (AFP PHOTO)

Eurozone debt crisis deepens

PARIS, France (AFP) – The financial cloud hanging over the eurozone darkened yesterday, with the euro falling and Italy hit by rising borrowing rates as EU measures to control sovereign debt left investors uncertain and anxious.

The euro fell under 1.30 dollars for the first time since mid-September, dropping at one point to 1.2969 dollars from 1.3121 dollars late Monday. The single currency later edged back up to 1.2982 dollars.

Upward pressure intensified on 10-year borrowing rates for countries seen at risk of needing a rescue after Greece and Ireland, with attention focused on Spain, a potentially much bigger problem for the EU.

The yield -- the rate of return -- on 10-year Spanish bonds rose above 5.50 percent from 5.46 percent late on Monday and for fellow struggler Portugal to 7.072 percent from 7.0 percent.

The gap between Spanish and benchmark German borrowing rates at one stage widened to 3.0 percentage points, an all-time high.

The differential is a "short-term fluctuation," Spain's Deputy Finance Minister Jose Manuel Campa insisted yesterday.

"We cannot react to fluctuations of one or two days on the market, especially at times when, given the market tensions, there is a perception that liquidity is smaller than in normal market conditions," he said.

Toyota to fix 650,000 Prius hybrids for heat risk

DETROIT/TOKYO – Toyota Motor Corp will pay to fix about 650,000 Prius models worldwide for a coolant pump glitch that could cause the top-selling hybrid to overheat and lose power, the automaker said.

The repair campaign covers Prius cars for the model years 2004 to 2007. The bulk of the cars, or 378,000 units, are in the United States.

The Japanese automaker said it had not received any reports of accidents or injuries from problems with the

said.

"These are short-term fluctuations. We are currently in a period of turbulence. What is important is to execute planned policies and the markets will respond," he added.

Spain's Socialist government has introduced politically sensitive measures aimed at reviving the economy and slashing its public deficit, including an overhaul of the country's rigid labour market rules. Italy too was under pressure yesterday, with the spread between its 10-year rates and those of Germany coming to 2.0 percentage points, likewise for the first time.

Italian bond yields rose to 4.687 percent from 4.638 percent on Monday.

"Objectively, on the basis of Italian fundamentals, the reaction seems excessive," said Marco Valli, an economist with UniCredit bank.

"But the market is panicking, which could mean that the eurozone crisis of confidence has entered a more dangerous phase," requiring possible intervention by the European Central Bank.

ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet meanwhile sought to soothe fears raised by the Irish debt crisis in remarks to the European Union's parliamentary committee on economic and monetary affairs.

He said both Greece and Ireland were solvent, insisting that the eurozone economy was "functioning" and had grown by more than expected this year.

Trichet said that "observers are tending to underestimate the determination of the (eurozone) governments and the EU as a whole."

Markets have given "a big thumbs down to the steps announced by the European authorities at the weekend," said Lee Hardman, an analyst at The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ in London.

In addition to approving an 85-billion-euro (111-billion-dollar) rescue for Ireland, European Union ministers outlined measures under which sovereign debt could eventually be re-structured -- but bondholders may have to bear some of the costs of future bailouts.

"A taboo was lifted when the Europeans (ministers) on Sunday said that sovereign debts could be restructured after 2013, which signals that bondholders could no longer be protected," said bond strategist Nordine Naam at Natixis bank.

Hardman said "the poor bond market reaction is an indication that the market is worryingly losing confidence in the European authorities' ability to deal effectively with the eurozone sovereign debt crisis."

Trichet said that markets needed greater clarity from EU political leaders, in particular regarding the possibility that investors would suffer losses in the event that a eurozone country defaulted on its debt.

Trichet said rules agreed to last weekend by eurozone finance ministers would be "fully consistent with IMF policy" and would not automatically demand that private investors bear losses.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

TABS	RATA	UMPH	SHEA
ACRE	EMIRS	NARE	PEAS
THEELGIN	MARBLER	CLASH	
SEATERS	MOATS	SOIREE	
HOES	OHARA	EPACT	
POTENT	SLIDE	ARRESTS	
LAHR	BUILT	ARRIS	OAT
ARE	THEPOLO	LOUNGE	FHA
NEB	RALES	ERGS	STOB
DREAMER	SLATS	LATHES	
INCAN	BWANA	FABLE	
MADDEN	PLIES	BARROWS	
ERGO	CEES	HELGA	OPE
ATE	SQUASH	BLOSSOM	REL
DEO	HURTS	REUSE	ILLS
ELFLAND	HENRY	DANDLE	
SURGS	CANIS	TONE	
SNIPES	PRIDE	AMERICA	
AEGIS	BEERAND	SKITTLES	
FOHN	ROOD	TOKEN	ISNT
ESSE	ANNO	WINO	AETA

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa was in the mood to prepare.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."



Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and specta-

homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to pro-



vide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their

Fifty Year History of Government Information

The first of December of 1955 may be considered the date of the founding of the Aruba Government Information Service. At that time, Aruba was an island territory -one of the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles. Mr. Nicolas Piña, a Venezuelan national, was contracted on that day with the charge to manage a government information office. There was no documentation as to how this new office should function. And, because Mr. Piña was not Aruban he could not become a civil servant. However, in 1959 he did become a nationalized Aruban citizen and was later (March 1960)

Rege- ringsvoorlichtingsdienst (Government Information Service). With the use of a report by Mr. Braam, a Curaçao author of the document used to form the Central Office of Government Information for the Netherlands Antilles, Mr. Piña prepared a document for the Government of Aruba which was used to formalize Aruba's Government Information Service. Mr. Piña quoted Mr. Braam by saying, "...It is important that there exist good communication between the press and the government. The lack of an office of information gives way to rumors concerning news about the

Government's actions. This does not benefit the people or the functionality of the Government."

From 1957 to 1971, the Office of Information Service published a monthly magazine in Papiamentu, the "ARUBA," which was distributed to every home on the island. This magazine continued to exist until around 1984. During these years, Mr. Lampe, who was then in

charge of the Office was also responsible for information programs on radio Voz di Aruba.

Mr. Nicolas Piña died in



appointed head of the Government Information Service.

On June 19, 1956 an official decree was signed instituting the then called,



Aruba's first governor Felipe B. Tromp

June 1967 leaving the Office with its own employees and work structure. However, to date no document containing the official structure, goals and other pertinent information exists in our Government archives.

In 1971 the Office was closed and the six employees were transferred to other Government Departments. Several institutions, such as FESINA (the Federation of Aruba Unions), the Aruba Press Club and the Catholic Clergy, reacted negatively to the closure of this important Office.

In 1974, as a result of the political developments in the region: Surinam with its independence set for 1975, a possible independence for the islands of the Netherlands Antilles, it was decided to open an RVD (Government Information Service) office in Aruba. However, then head of this Office, Mr. Tommy Leest, with no purchasing authority was handicapped in making this Office work. Every decision had to be first approved by the Prime Minister of the Antilles (in Curaçao).

Later that year, the Government of Aruba decided to open a new Office under the new name AVD (Aruba's Information Service), in order to have the necessary means to report on the developments with respect to Aruba's bid for separation from the Antilles. This new Office played a pivotal role in the organization of the referendum for an Apart Status in 1976 and in the inauguration of Aruba's national anthem and flag that same year.

In the 80's, the Govern-

ment Information Service acquired their own professional recording and filming equipment and was instrumental in submitting to the community crucial information about all the developments surrounding the Round Table Conference in Holland which dealt with Aruba's fight for Apart Status.

In view of the realization of Aruba's Apart Status, it was decided to unite the two Offices (RVD and AVD)

goodbye to the days of black and white photos and dark room film development. Since 1997 photos can be stored and archived for the use of others as well.

In 2007, the government introduced her own official website. The Aruba Government's website provides readers information about its services and products in both Papiamentu and in Dutch. Aruba's website is interactive where searchers can find in-



under one sole body, the BUVO (Bureau of Information) in order to more effectively submit information concerning the developments surrounding the bid for Aruba's Apart Status in the Dutch Kingdom.

After Apart Status in 1986, the BUVO served also as a public relations office for the government and the new office of the Governor. In 1995, a permanent head for this department was appointed.

With the coming of modern technology, the BUVO also moved into the world of digital technology and said

formation regarding, for example, the requirements for establishing a local business. The website provides the necessary information about the steps to take, the particular departments to consult, etc. This website receives daily queries from local and foreign concerns about information on Aruba. The Aruba Government's website: www.gobierno.aw and www.overheid.aw is managed by the BUVO.

Source: Archivo Nacional di Aruba and Oficina di Informacion (BUVO)

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Rookie award for Italian teen Manassero



PARIS, France (AFP) - Italian teenager Matteo Manassero has been named the European Tour's Rookie of the Year after a record-breaking start to his career during which he became the youngest player to win in the tour's history.

Manassero launched his professional career in the Italian Open at the beginning of May and in October, at the age of 17 years and 188 days, he won the Castello Masters in Valencia.

The former British Amateur champion went on to finish in 31st place in The 2010 Race to Dubai, playing 54 rounds for which he was 73 under par with only seven scores over 72.

"It is a big honour to win the Rookie of the Year award," said Manassero, who follows in the footsteps Nick Faldo, Tony Jacklin, Sandy Lyle, Jose Maria Olazábal and Colin Montgomerie, as well as many of today's biggest stars including Sergio Garcia, Ian Poulter and Europe's new number one Martin Kaymer.

"I never expected to win on tour so quickly and to win the Rookie of the Year Award is a perfect way to end my first season as a professional.

"It is such a special award

because you only get one chance to win it so it is a great honour."

Manassero is the first Italian to win the rookie award, which is judged by The R&A, the Association of Golf Writers and The European Tour.

He is also the tenth golfer from Continental Europe and 46th recipient in total since its launch in 1960.

He was the youngest ever winner of the British Amateur in 2009 and the youngest player to claim the Silver Medal for leading amateur at the British Open that same year when he finished tied

13th at Turnberry.

In April of this year he became the youngest amateur to compete in the Masters Tournament and, furthermore, the youngest player to make the halfway cut.

George O'Grady, Chief Executive of The European Tour, said: "Matteo's arrival on The European Tour coincided with what many observers of the game regard as the most exciting season in our history.

"He has increased the interest in golf, especially with youngsters in Europe, and indeed throughout the world."

Loew toughens up Germans' Euro 2012 plans

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany coach Joachim Loew said Tuesday he wants a tough warm-up programme for his team in the build-up to Euro 2012 with plans in the pipeline to face World Cup finalists Holland.

With Germany five-points clear at the top of Euro 2012 qualifier Group A, the Euro 2008 finalists look set to qualify as group winners for the European Championships to be held in the Ukraine and Poland in 18 months.

If Germany qualify directly, they are set to play Holland in November 2011 followed by a match against the Ukraine.

Then in February 2012, they are set to face France, but no dates or venues have been set yet for any of those games.

"We want to test ourselves against the strongest possible sides," Loew told German daily Bild.

Germany's next game is a friendly against Italy in Dortmund on February 9 and they play South American giants Brazil in Stuttgart in August 2011, as well as six more Euro 2012 qualifiers next year.

They will also play Uruguay in May 2011 in a re-match of their third-placed play-off at the World Cup in South Africa before concluding their Euro 2012 campaign against Belgium next October.



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Mourinho banned, players fined over red cards



PARIS (AFP) - Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho was on Tuesday banned for one game with one game suspended by UEFA after two of his players received suspicious red cards in a Champions League game with Ajax.

"The Spanish club's coach Jose Mourinho has been suspended from coaching activities for two UEFA club competition matches, of which the second is deferred for a probationary period of three years. He was also fined 40,000 euros," read a statement on the UEFA website.

UEFA specified that the punishments were for "im-

proper conduct".

Midfielder Xabi Alonso and right-back Sergio Ramos were both sent off at the end of Real's 4-0 win in Amsterdam last week after receiving their second yellow cards for blatant acts of time-wasting.

The dismissals mean they are banned for Real's final 'dead rubber' Group G match with Marseille and Spanish press speculated that they had deliberately got sent off to give themselves a disciplinary clean slate in the last 16.

Alonso and Ramos were both fined by UEFA, while goalkeeper Iker Casillas and reserve keeper Jerzy Dudek were also fined after being captured on television apparently passing messages to them from the dugout.

Spanish international team-mates Alonso and Ramos were fined 20,000 euros each, with a 10,000 fine handed to Casillas and Dudek ordered to pay 5,000 euros.

"The red cards given to Alonso and Ramos stand, and they have therefore been suspended for one UEFA club competition match," added UEFA.

Real, nine-time European champions, were also fined 120,000 euros over the incident. The club has three days to launch an appeal.



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Tensions Heat up over LeBron's return to Cleveland



MIAMI (AFP) - NBA superstar LeBron James makes an emotional return to the city he spurned on Thursday when the Miami Heat visit Cleveland amid tighter security and a reception even James expects will be unwelcoming.

James, the reigning two-time NBA Most Valuable Player, departed the Cavaliers for Miami last July in a free agent deal announced on a television special, joining Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade in a gathering of talent at Miami.

Cavaliers supporters burned James jerseys in their anger. A baseball fan who attended a Cleveland Indians game while wearing a Heat jersey with James's name on it had to be escorted out by police after being pelted with trash and beer.

So "King James" is well aware that his former subjects are serious about showing their displeasure.

"It's going to be a real hostile environment," James said. "It's going to be pretty

intense."

A Twitter campaign to react to James's introduction with laughter, like a Cleveland-area bishop's preaching to show class and more kindness than James did on his departure, could tamp down the venom expected to greet the playmaker.

But Quicken Loans Arena has reminded the public that signs, clothing or verbal abuse featuring profanity will not be tolerated and extra security will be on hand to ensure decorum, even if a cascade of jeers are expected.

A sellout crowd of more than 20,000 people will be on hand to greet James, with ticket resale prices reaching 5,000 dollars for prime seats and just 250 dollars to get inside the arena for a chance to boo James upon his return.

James, who grew up in the Cleveland suburb of Akron, made an appearance in his hometown a month after his decision in a bicycle charity event and thanked Cleveland fans for their support.

Cavaliers owner Dan

Gilbert described James as "selfish" and called his departure from the team a "cowardly betrayal".

"You simply don't deserve this kind of cowardly betrayal," Gilbert said in the letter to the Cleveland fans. "You have given so much and deserve so much more. In the meantime, I want to make one statement to you tonight:

"I personally guarantee that the Cleveland Cavaliers will win an NBA championship before the self-titled former 'King' wins one. You can take it to the bank.

"This shocking act of disloyalty from our home grown 'chosen one' sends the exact opposite lesson of what we would want our children to learn."

Gilbert was fined 100,000 dollars by the NBA for his remarks and James fired back in an interview with GQ magazine, saying he will have extra motivation every time he plays against the Cavaliers.

"I do have motivation, a lot of motivation," James said. "I don't think (Gilbert) ever cared about LeBron."

The Cavaliers come to Miami on December 15 and January 31. The Heat will visit the Cavaliers again on March 29.

James said that he left 30 million dollars on the table by departing Cleveland but that winning an NBA title was the most important thing and he felt he had a better chance of doing that with the Heat.

Thus far, neither club is doing all that well. The Heat are 10-8, third in the Southeast division and fifth in the Eastern Conference, while the Cavaliers are 7-9, third in the Central division and eighth in the Eastern Conference.

Saints' Brees wins Sports Illustrated honor



NEW YORK (AFP) - New Orleans star Drew Brees, who guided the Saints to a Super Bowl crown that excited a city devastated by Hurricane Katrina, was named Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old quarterback sparked the Saints to their first National Football League crown last February. His foundation has worked with more than four dozen schools and charity groups to help rebuild the flood-ravaged city.

General admission ticket refunds set if games wiped out

NEW YORK (AFP) - Ticket refunds will be made to fans for any 2011 pre-season or regular-season National Football League games cancelled because of a labor dispute between owners and players, the NFL said Tuesday.

The policy applies to all general admission tickets for games wiped out by a work stoppage, with each of the league's 30 clubs deciding policies regarding club seats, suites and personal seat licensing payments.

Season ticket holders will be able to take a refund or credits toward the purchase of tickets for future games while fans with seats for individual games can receive refunds or exchange the tickets for a future game selected by the club.

"The more that I've learned about the award and that it goes well beyond what you accomplish on the field, that it's very much about what you do off the field as well, with community service and your family, makes the award even more special to me," Brees said.

Brees became the 57th winner of the award, the fifth NFL quarterback to receive the honor and third in six years after Green Bay's Brett Favre in 2007, New England's Tom Brady in 2005, San Francisco's Joe Montana in 1990 and Terry Bradshaw of Pittsburgh in 1979.

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Japanese pitcher Tateyama joins Texas Rangers

ARLINGTON (AFP) - Yoshinori Tateyama, who has spent the past 12 seasons pitching for the Nippon Ham Fighters in Japan's Pacific League, has signed a one-year Major League Baseball contract with the Texas Rangers.

The American League champion Rangers announced

Tuesday that they had agreed to terms with the sidearm-throwing right-hander in a deal that gives Texas options to keep him for the 2012 and 2013 seasons as well.

Tateyama, who turns 35 on December 26, will compete for a job as a relief pitcher for the Rangers.

Tateyama went 1-2 with four saves and a career-low 1.80 earned-run average in 58 games last season for the Sapporo-based club, striking out 59 batters while issuing only 11 walks with opposing batters amassing a .213 average on 43 hits in 202 attempts. He allowed only three home runs.



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Hayatou denies corruption

PARIS (AFP) - African Football Confederation (CAF) chairman Issa Hayatou on Tuesday rejected claims made in a British television documentary that he received secret payments from bankrupt marketing firm ISL.

Hayatou is one of three member's of world body FIFA's executive committee members - the others being Ricardo Teixeira of Brazil and South America's Nicolas Leoz - accused by BBC's Panorama of receiving money from ISL over a decade ago.

Panorama alleges that Hayatou received 100,000 French francs (20,000 dollars) from ISL before the firm

went under.

International Sports and Leisure collapsed in 2001 in a controversy over alleged kickbacks for TV rights contracts.

Hayatou told broadcaster France 24 that ISL had made a 25,000 Swiss franc "solidarity" payment "in the context of the organisation of the CAF's 40th anniversary."

He added: "We do not deny that ISL gave the CAF ... 25,000 Swiss francs. Nobody is contesting that."

"We do not see that we are concerned by what the BBC is reporting - it is something dating back 16 years. Why did the BBC not reveal that 16 years ago if it had proof of corruption?"



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